

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, 17, 18, 21, and 23 are pending.

A response to the final Office action mailed March 16, 2006 was not entered. The accompanying RCE is submitted in response.

This amendment, submitted with an RCE, is based on the claims as amended in the response mailed December 15, 2005. The December 15 response was filed in response to an Office action mailed September 26, 2005.

It was noted in the September 26 Office action that dependent claim 24 was deemed allowable. Consequently, dependent claim 24 has been incorporated into its base claim 1. Claim 1 and its dependent claims 5, 17, 18, and 21 are therefore believed to be allowable.

It was noted in the September 26 Office action that the art of record does not show a measuring MR element that is absent shield films. Claims 6, 13, and 23 have been amended to substantively recite this limitation. For example, claim 6 recites in part "the second magneto-resistive effect element *consisting only of* a second magneto-resistive effect film disposed between a first electrode and a second electrode," (italics added for emphasis). No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

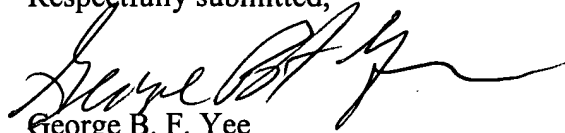
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/025,154
Amdt. sent June 8, 2006
Amendment Submitted with Request for Continued
Examination Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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